

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp for emitting light toward a predetermined emitting direction, comprising:

- a linear light source including a plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices approximately aligned; and

- an optical component provided commonly to said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices, having its focus on one of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices, operable to irradiate light emitted by said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices toward said emitting direction, wherein

- the focus of the optical component is on a focal point, and

- the focal point is located on a surface of the one of the plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices that is positioned at the center of the plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1~~ A vehicular headlamp for emitting light toward a predetermined emitting direction, comprising:

- a linear light source including a plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices approximately aligned; and

- an optical component provided commonly to said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices, having its focus on one of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices, operable to irradiate light emitted by said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices toward said emitting direction, wherein

- said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices are aligned in a predetermined aligning direction;

- said one semiconductor light emitting device has a side at an end thereof, said side extending in said aligning direction; and

- said optical component has said ~~optical center~~ focal point on said side and forms at least a part of a cut line for defining a boundary between a bright region and a dark region in a light distribution pattern of said vehicular headlamp based on light emitted by a portion near said side of said one semiconductor light emitting device.

3. (Original) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein

said vehicular headlamp emits said light ahead of an automobile, and

said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices are aligned in an approximately transverse direction of the automobile.

4. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein

an odd number of semiconductor light emitting devices are provided, ~~and~~

~~said optical component has said optical center on one of said semiconductor light emitting devices that is positioned at a center of them.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp for emitting light toward a predetermined emitting direction, comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices approximately aligned;

an optical component comprising a reflecting mirror surrounding at least one direction of said semiconductor light emitting devices, said reflecting mirror comprising at least in part thereof an elliptical plane, and said reflecting mirror having a focus on one of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices, operable to irradiate light emitted by said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices toward said emitting direction, wherein

the focus of the reflecting mirror is on a focal point, and

the focal point is located on a surface one of the plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices that is positioned at the center of the plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices.

7. (New) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said vehicular headlamp emits said light ahead of an automobile, and

said plurality of semiconductor light emitting devices are aligned in an approximately transverse direction of the automobile.